

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-11 and 13 are pending as amended herewith.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 8 on formal points only. Claim 7 has been amended to include the limitation of previous claim 12.

The claims stand subject to restriction, the Examiner maintaining that the product of claim 7 can be made by a materially different process from that of former claim 14 because the product of claim 7 can be made by applying the taste-masking coating without compressing the coated medicinal substance. Presently amended claim 7 requires that that product be obtained by such compressing. Thus, applicants urge that the Restriction Requirement should be withdrawn.

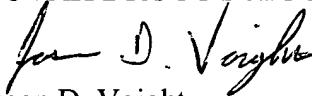
Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and 35 U.S.C. 101. Applicants have amended these claims to recite a process.

Claims 1-10, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kolter et al. (US 6,046,277). Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kolter et al., further in view of Wheatley, Shirai et al., Mehta and Lerner et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Applicants request consideration of the remarks of the reply of May 23, 2003 regarding Kolter et al. In particular, applicants emphasize that Kolter et al. does not disclose the compression of coated articles with other excipients to make dosage forms. The secondary references do not compensate for this deficiency.

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